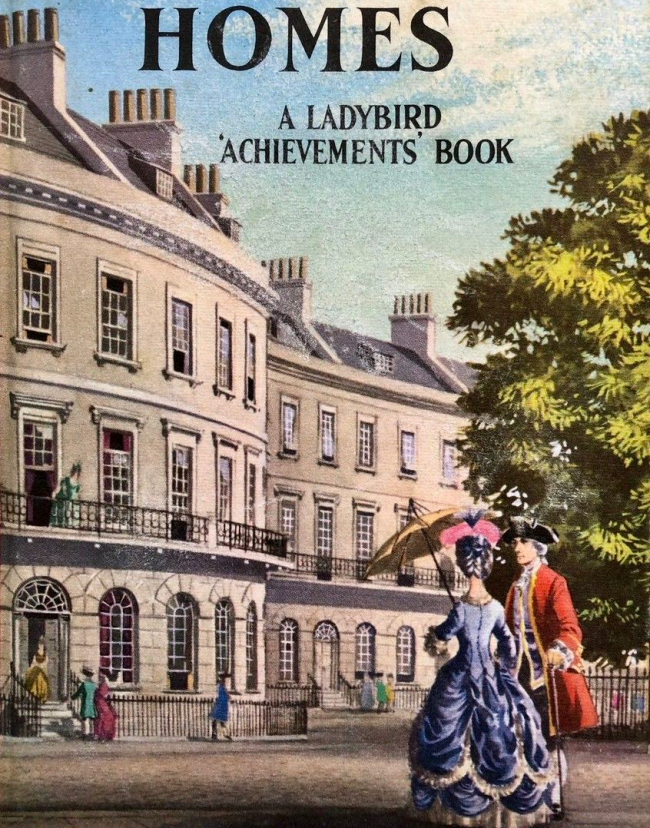
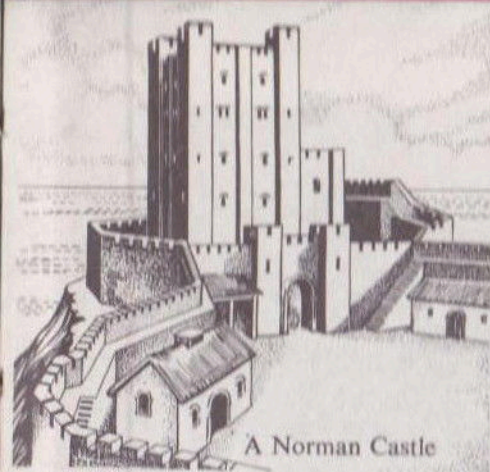


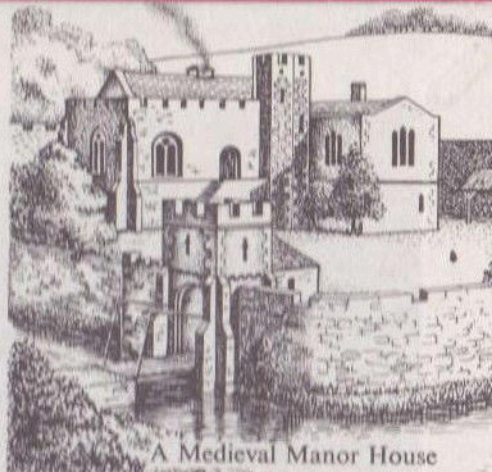
# HOUSES and HOMES

A LADYBIRD  
'ACHIEVEMENTS' BOOK

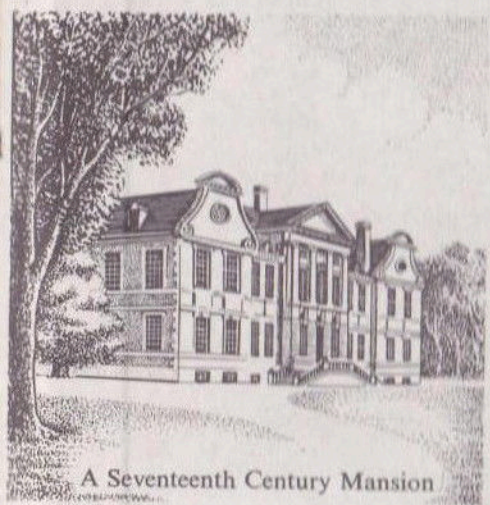




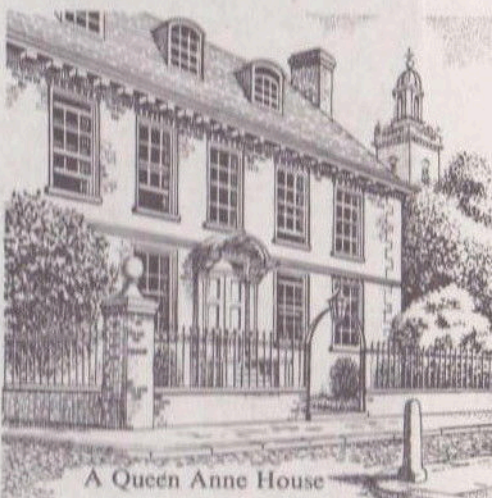
A Norman Castle



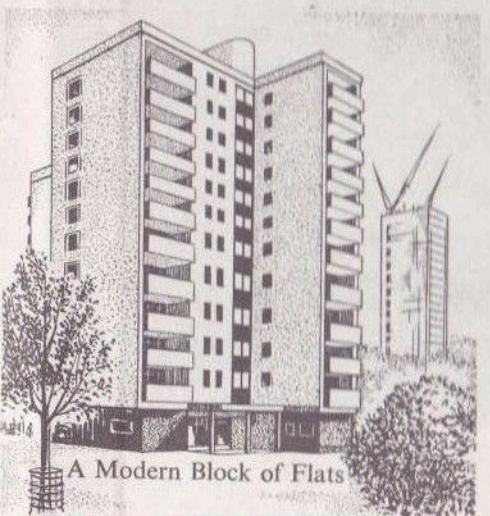
A Medieval Manor House



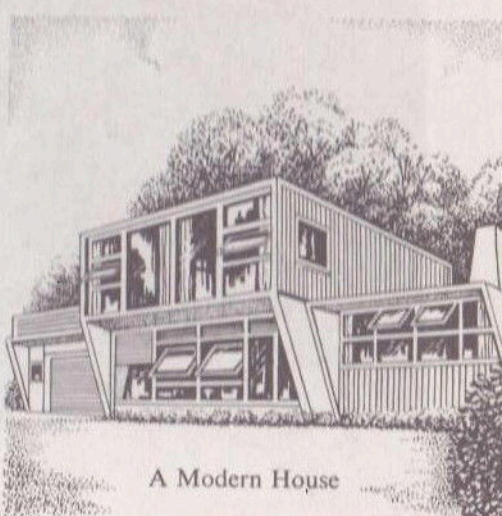
A Seventeenth Century Mansion



A Queen Anne House

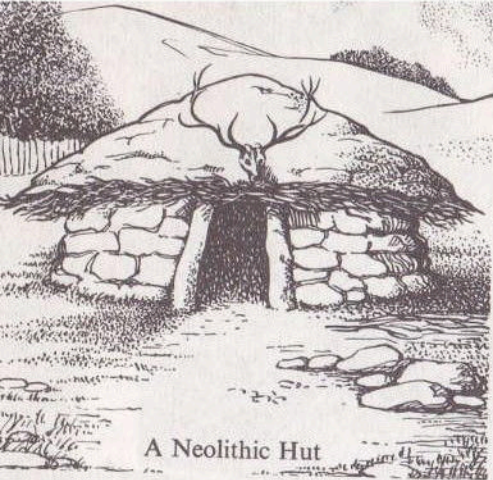


A Modern Block of Flats



A Modern House

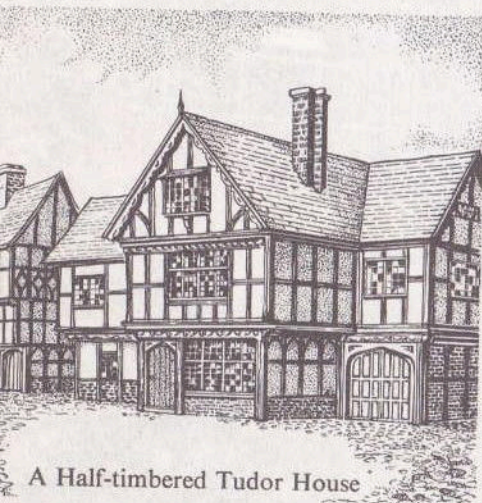




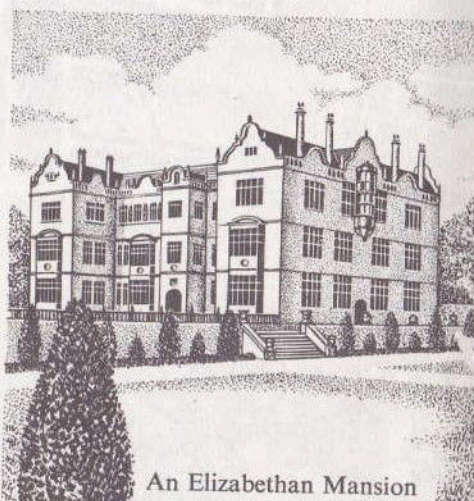
A Neolithic Hut



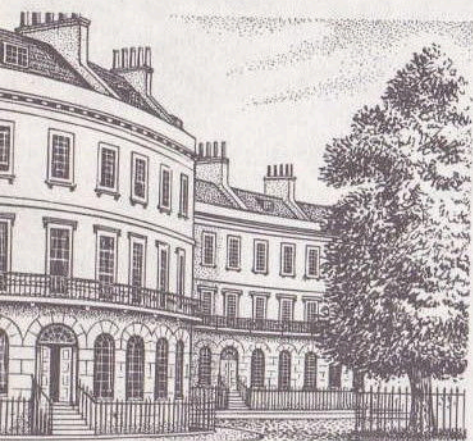
A Saxon Hall



A Half-timbered Tudor House



An Elizabethan Mansion



Part of a Georgian Row



A Victorian Gothic House



Series 601

*Another Ladybird 'Achievements' book specially planned for children who want to know 'How, when, where and why?'*

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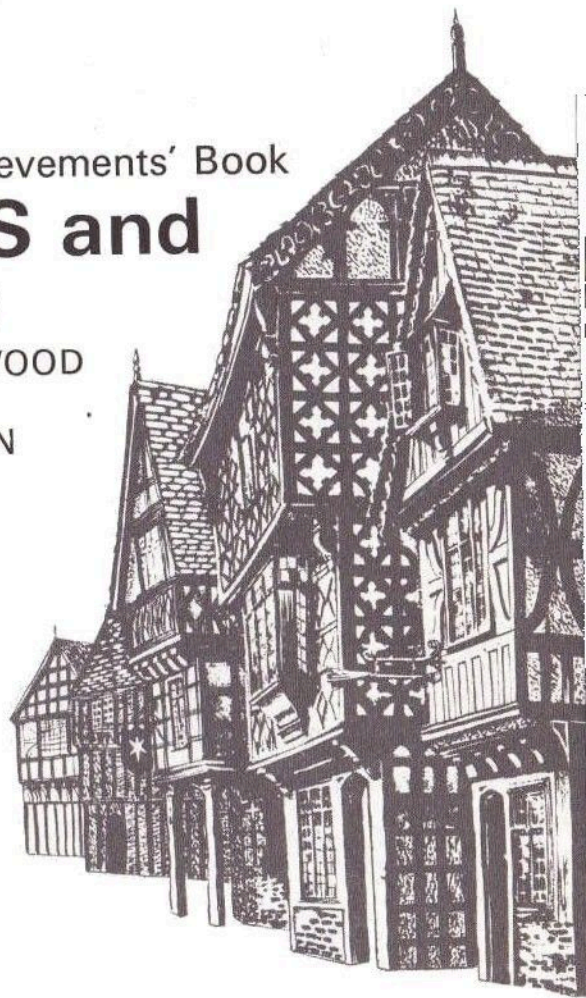


A Ladybird 'Achievements' Book

# HOUSES and HOMES

by RICHARD BOWOOD

with illustrations  
by ROBERT AYTON



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*Printed in England*

## ***Man's First Home***

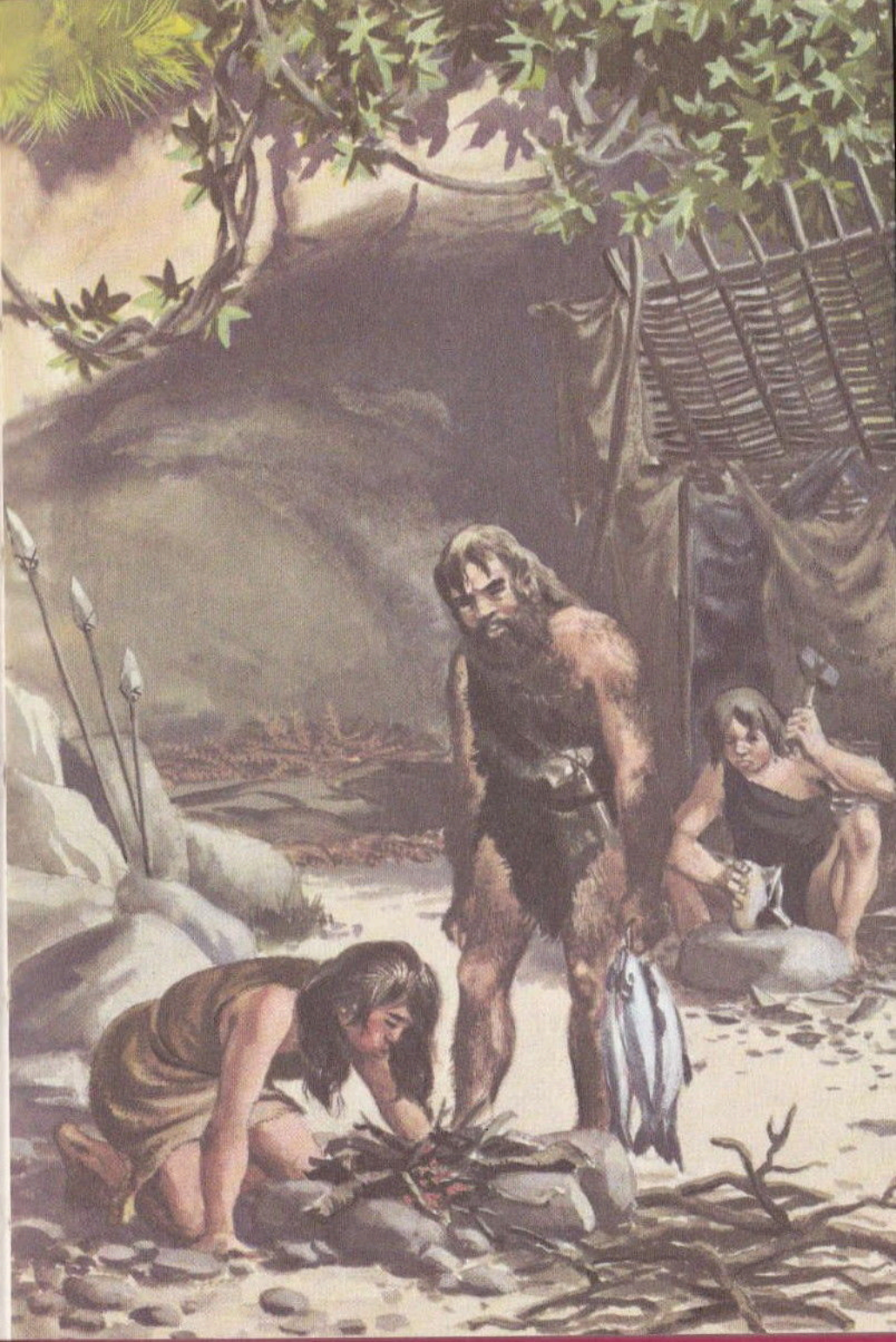
Man must have a house, for shelter from the weather, to provide a safe place to sleep with protection from his enemies, and to make a home for his wife and children. The 'house' in the picture may not seem very comfortable to us, but it provided primitive man with these basic essentials.

It is a rock shelter, the kind of home used by men of the *Palaeolithic* or Old Stone Age, our ancestors of many thousands of years ago. They were simple folk who lived by hunting and fishing, using stone or wooden weapons. Their only tools were flints sharpened by chipping, and it is these flints which provide almost the only evidence we have of the first men who lived.

These men did not know how to grow crops, nor did they have domestic animals to provide milk and food. They probably ate berries, and killed wild animals for meat. If the wild animals moved to new feeding grounds, these primitive men had to follow them, and that is why they had to find ready-made homes such as the rock shelters. These shelters were probably improved with screens of withies covered with skins.

The picture gives us an idea of how primitive man lived in Britain. He may not have been very clever, but he could make a fire—and he had his home.





## *The First Houses*

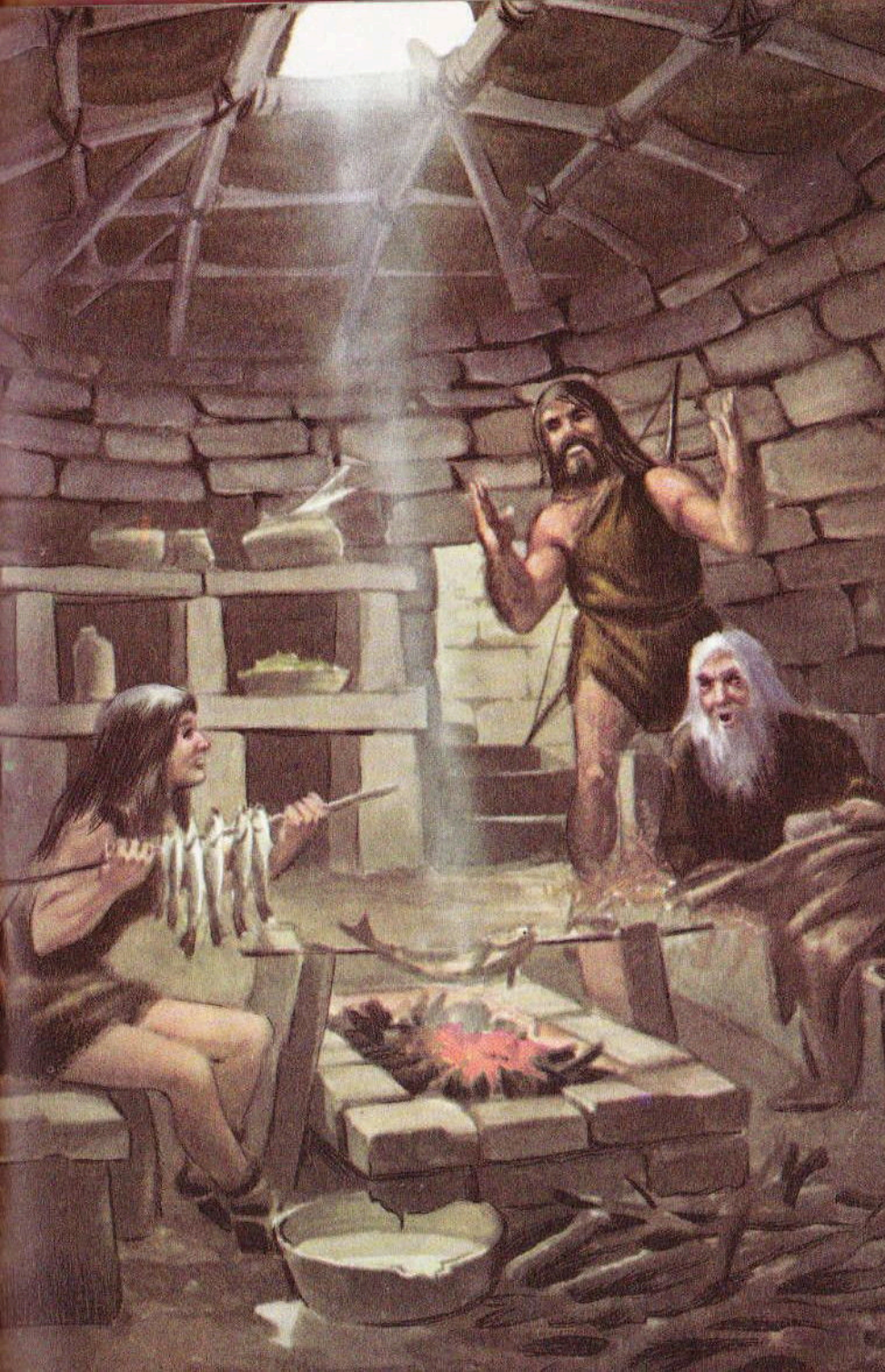
The first kind of house in Britain was a simple one-room building of stone or wood, according to the materials the people could obtain. We know something about them from some stone houses discovered at Skara Brae, in the Orkneys off the north of Scotland. They were used about four thousand years ago.

The people who lived in them belonged to the *Neolithic Age*, and they were greatly in advance of the primitive men who used rock shelters. As well as hunting and fishing, they grew crops and kept cattle and sheep. They made fine tools of stone, also delicate, and very sharp, flint arrow-heads. It is believed they made wooden farming tools. They knew how to weave cloth and they even made jewellery of shells, jet and shale.

The picture shows what one of the houses at Skara Brae might have looked like inside. The walls were very thick, and the roof was made of whalebone rafters covered with skins, with a hole in the middle as a chimney.

When the houses were excavated, hearths, beds, cupboards and dressers were found in position, all made of stone. The great number of shells found showed that these people liked shell-fish.





## *Roman Villas*

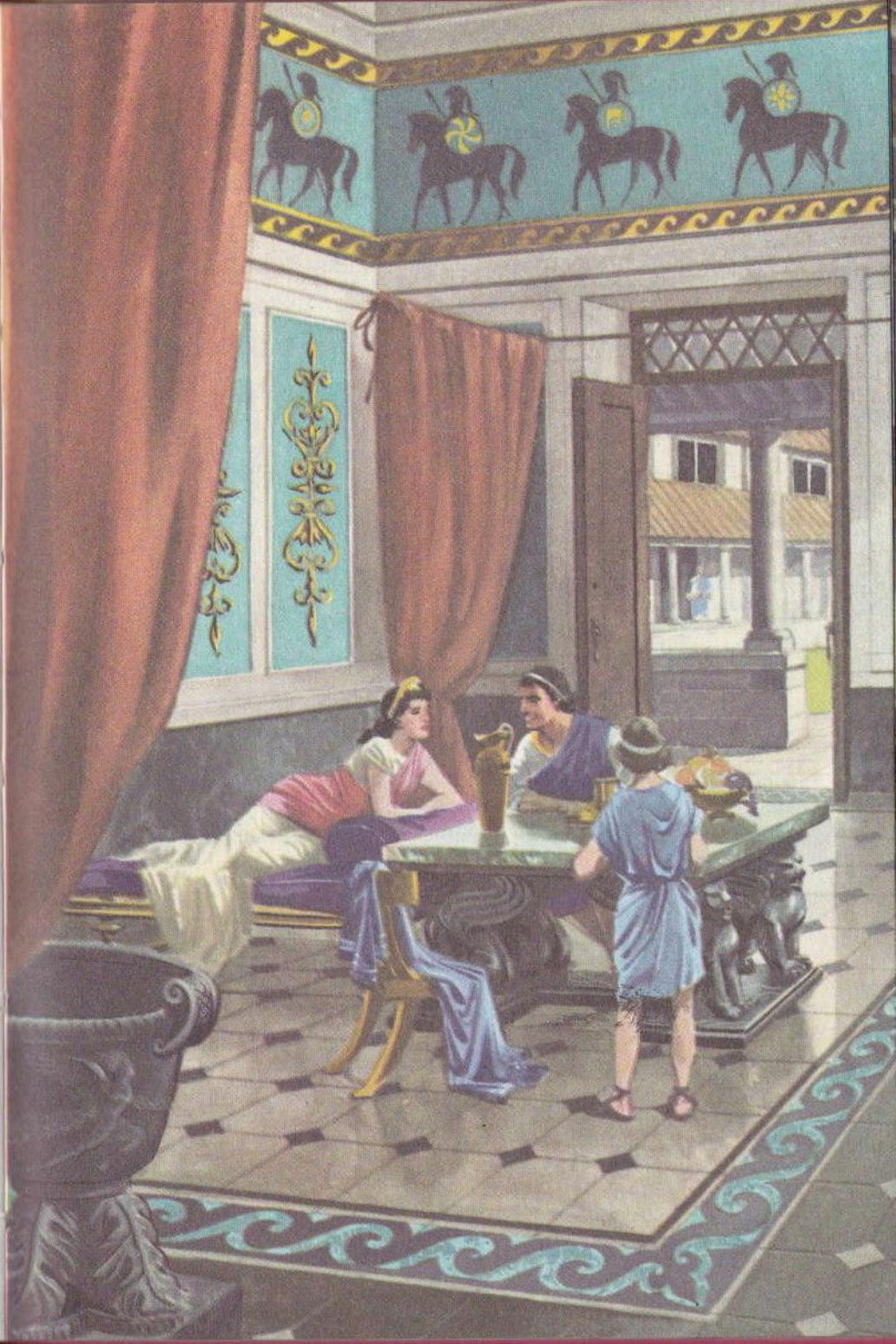
For four hundred years, up to 410 A.D., Britain was a Roman colony, in which Romans and Britons lived together, protected by the power and authority of the Roman army.

The Romans brought with them their law and form of government. They made splendid roads all over the country, and they brought their methods of building which were far in advance of those of the British.

Towns grew up with well-built stone houses, paved streets, temples, public halls, public baths and sports arenas. In Italy the Romans had been used to living in fine houses like the one in the picture. Using the best available local materials, they built themselves fine houses in Britain.

A Roman villa was often 'H' shaped, with the principal rooms in the cross-piece. The best rooms had a verandah in front, and the floors were often tiled and patterned. A very good form of central heating was used, provided by hot air passing through tunnels under the floor. The remains of many of these villas still exist, and from them we can see how the Romans (and the wealthy British who adopted Roman ways) lived eighteen hundred years ago.





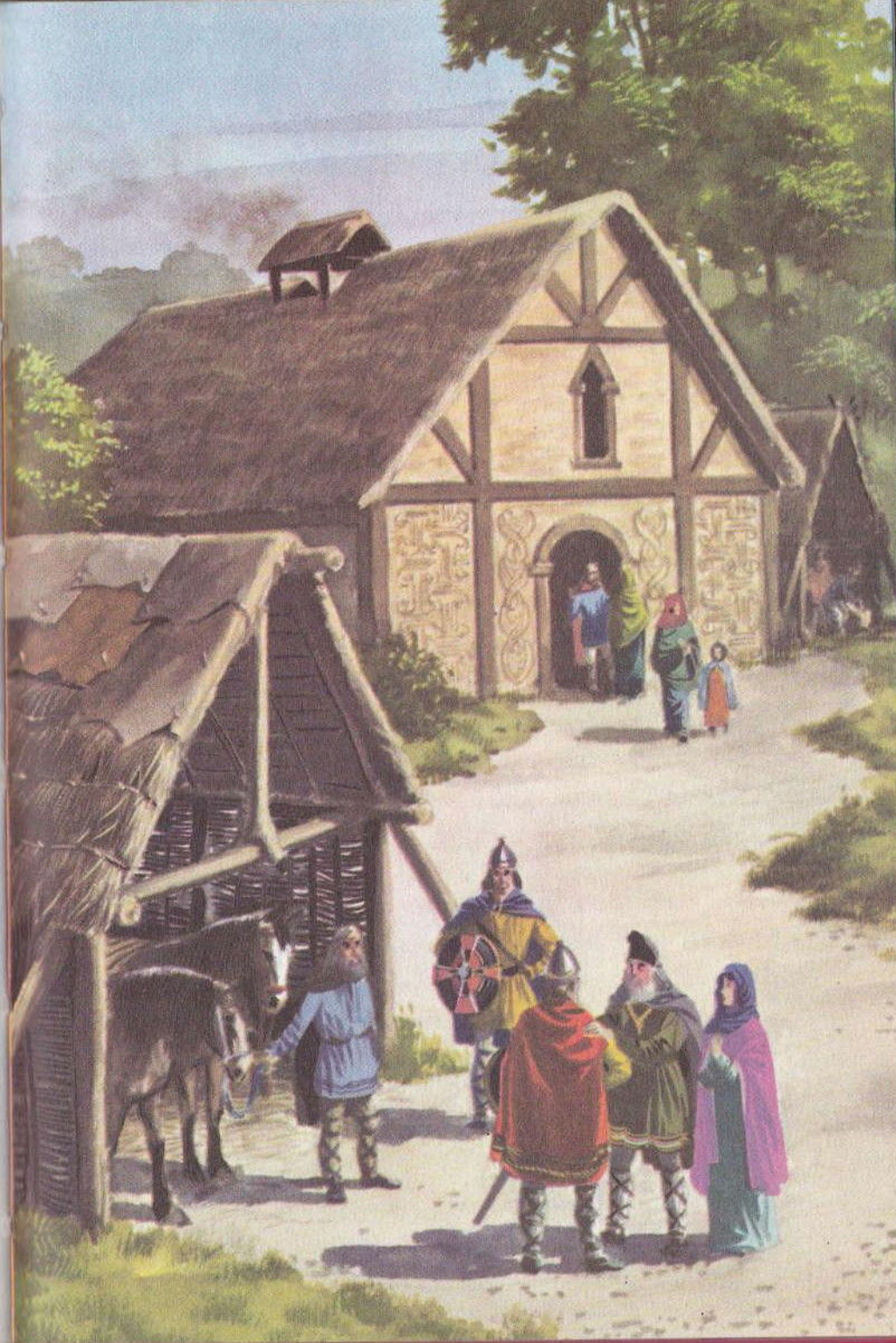
## *The Saxon House*

When the Romans left Britain in the year 410 A.D. the civilised and peaceful Romano-British way of life came to an end. Without the Roman army to defend them the Britons fell an easy prey to invaders, and war-like Saxons overran the land. The Britons were driven into Wales, Ireland and the north-western islands. The well-planned towns and the villas fell into ruins, and the Roman methods of building were forgotten.

The Saxons built their houses with a framework of wood, the spaces in between being filled with mud, turf and basketwork. The roof was probably a layer of heather, covered by turf or with a thatch of reed. Any windows would be little more than open spaces, perhaps filled at night with stretched skin, straw or wood. Saxon homes were either very small, like tents and called 'cotes', or large Halls. A chief and a number of other people lived together in a Hall.

The cattle lived in the Hall, too, in stalls built along the walls. There was a central hearth, with a vent in the roof to let out the smoke. The floor was covered with rushes. The people living in the little houses cooked outside when they could, as there was then less danger of their homes catching fire.





## *The Norman Castle*

William of Normandy conquered England in 1066 and he and his people settled here. The Normans were great builders, and we can still admire their skill in building cathedrals, churches and castles.

When a Norman was granted land in England by King William, he built himself a castle from which to rule his new domain. He made it strong, because in the early days he was always likely to be attacked by the English.

The first castles were built of wood, but they were soon replaced by castles of stone. These were immensely strong, with walls up to fifteen feet thick. The main part was the 'Keep', built on a small, steep hill with a strong wall round it. There was an outer wall, the 'curtain', and between the two were the houses, workshops, stables and barns. The castle was like a town, and so able to support itself in time of siege.

The main room in the Keep was the Great Hall, where the lord and his family lived and had their meals. Minstrels played from a wooden gallery, and there were rushes on the floor. Little bedrooms, separated by curtains, opened out of the Great Hall. The castle was a grand home and, at the same time, a very powerful fortress.





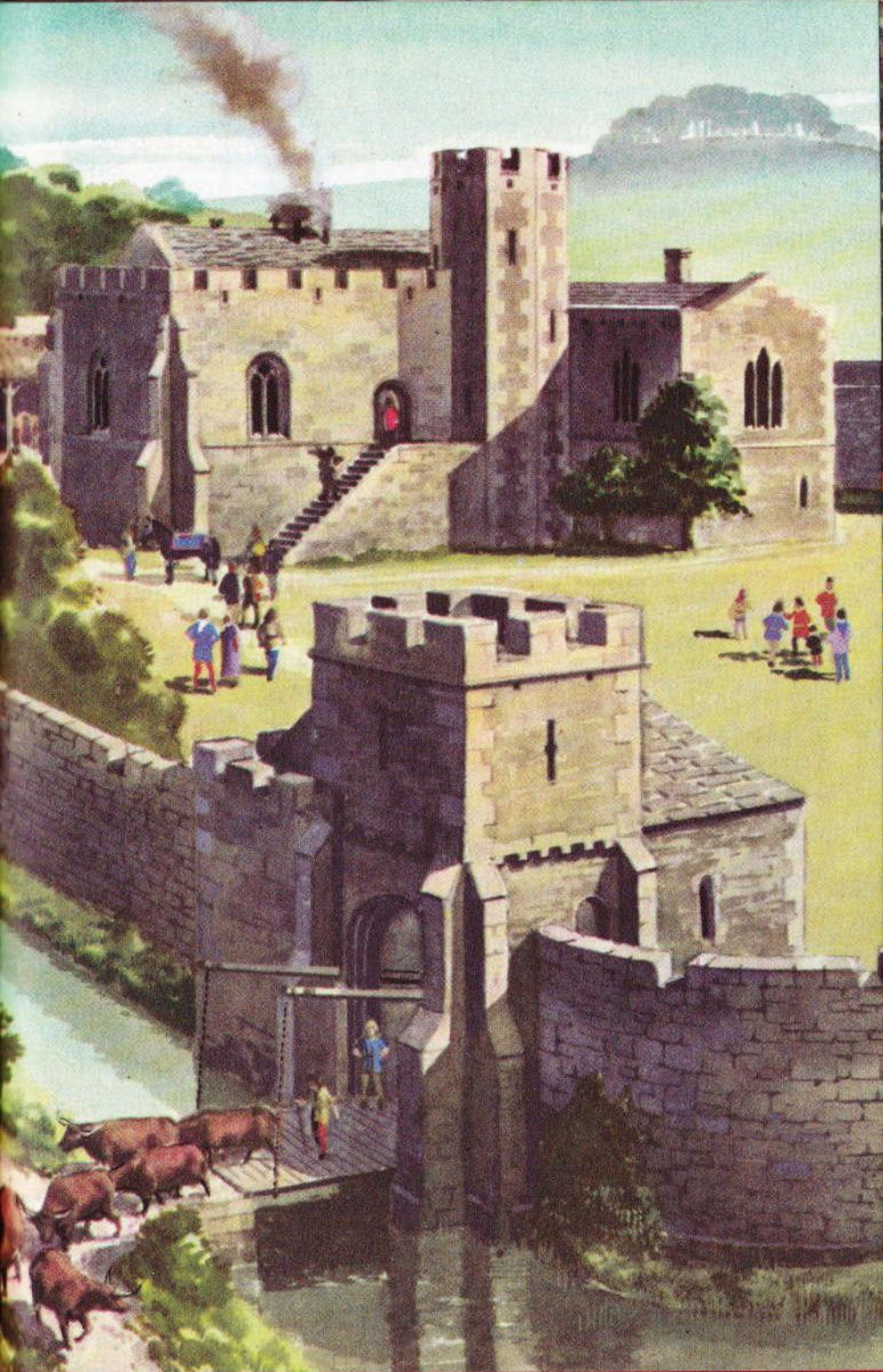
## *A Medieval Manor House*

When tracing the development of houses it is in the rich man's home that we find changes. Until two or three hundred years ago small houses remained more or less the same. They were always built of the materials easily to hand; wood, stone or mud. The roofs were thatched or tiled and the design was very simple. In the homes of the rich, however, we find changes as the centuries passed.

The picture shows a medieval manor house as it would have been between the years 1200 and 1300. Times were more settled, so the house did not have to be a fortress. Yet there was a strong wall and a moat, just in case a neighbour became troublesome or bandits came to the neighbourhood. There were still wolves in Britain, and these might also have attacked people and cattle.

This was the home of the Lord of the Manor, the master of the immediate neighbourhood. It was built of stone, and either thatched or tiled with slate or stone. The windows were often pointed, like church windows, and small because glass was not yet used in them. They did use very thin slices of horn in small panes, but usually the windows were unprotected, and closed with wooden shutters at night. Everyone who lived on the estate went to the manor house for work, to pay rent, for justice and sometimes for parties.





## *The Hall of a Medieval Manor House*

The picture shows us the great hall of the medieval manor house on the previous page. This is where everyone lived and ate by day. It was a handsomely proportioned room with a floor of tiles or flag-stones instead of rushes. The hearth was still in the middle, with a hole in the roof to let the smoke out. Over this hole was a raised cover to keep out the rain.

The lord of the manor, his family and guests sat for meals on the raised dais, where the lord had his chair of state. The others would sit at other tables, in order of their importance.

The doorway at the end led to the *solar*, the private rooms of the family. They would have bedrooms, reached by a spiral staircase. The steward and senior officials in the household would have, or share, bedrooms, but the ordinary servants would sleep where they could, in winter beside the hearth, or in the kitchen.

The walls of the hall were sometimes plastered to cover the bare stones, and often hung with rich cloths and tapestries. The lord's coat of arms and crest, the armour and the weapons made fine decorations.





## *Half-Timbered Houses*

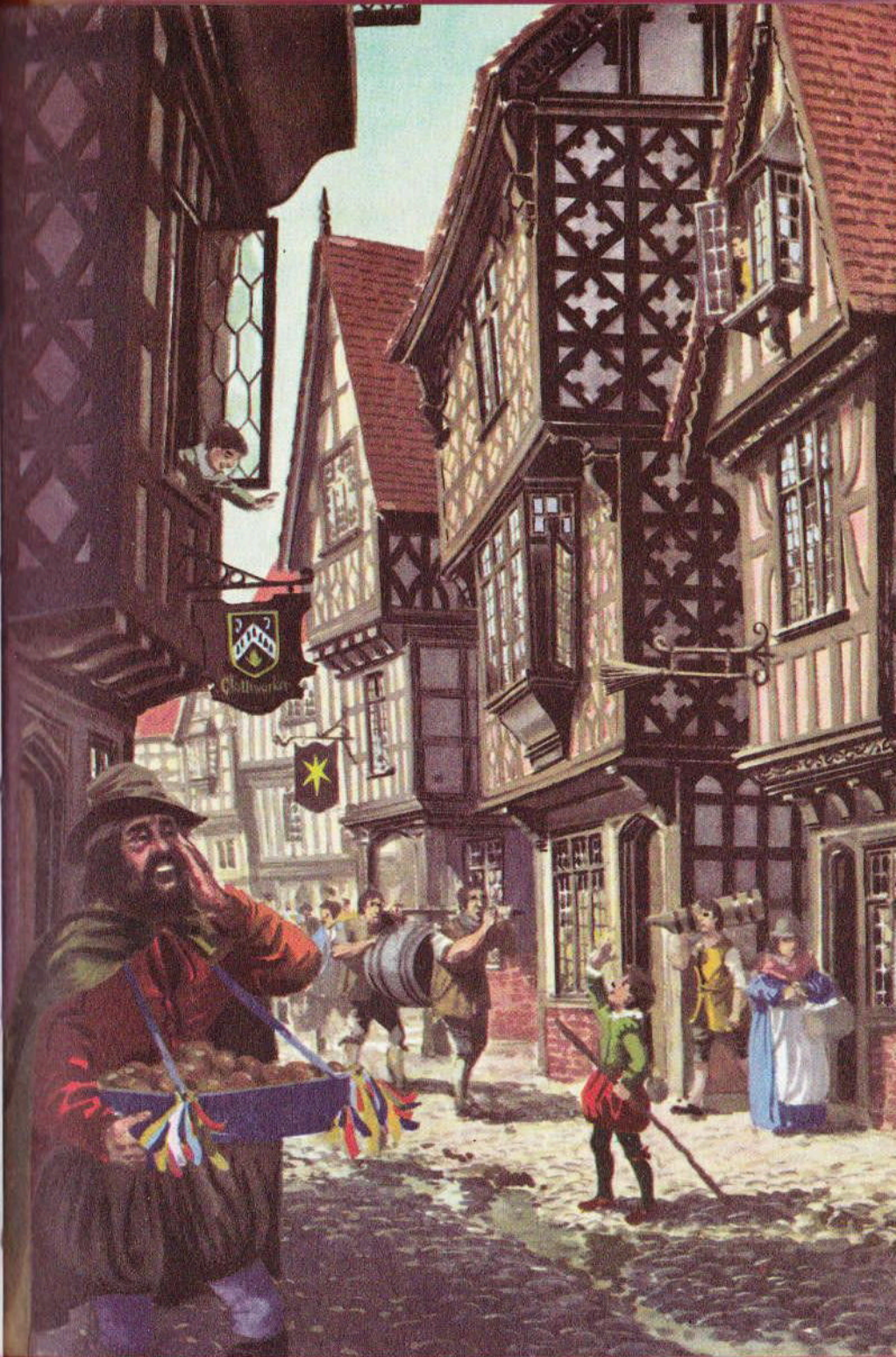
The best half-timbered houses were built in the Tudor period, during the reigns of Henry VIII (1509–1547) and Elizabeth I (1558–1603). These old half-timbered houses, some of which remain, are a source of delight and admiration.

The name comes from the fact that they were built with a timber framework, heavy wooden beams fitted into each other and secured with wooden pegs. The spaces between the beams were filled with narrow bricks, or pieces of woven hurdle covered with mud and plaster. The roofs were tiled and often had gables. The long boards under the gables, known as barge boards, were usually beautifully carved.

The top storey projected over the lower, so that the upstairs rooms were bigger. These houses had numerous rooms, with chimneys and fireplaces built into the walls.

Glass was used for the windows, but in those days it was not possible to make the large sheets of glass we use. Small glass panes were fixed in strips of lead. The windows built *out* from the room to give more light and space were *oriel windows*, or if they reached to the ground, *bay windows*.





## *Inside a Tudor House*

The picture shows us the living room of the shop on the previous page. It is the room over the shop.

The floor was made of wide oak planks. The walls were panelled: this was because the filling between the timber framework sometimes left tiny gaps or let in the damp, and wood panelling covered them up. The most popular kind of panelling was called *linen-fold*, because it was carved to look like folded linen. The wood was carved in folds which followed the grain and was therefore less likely to warp or twist.

The handsome fireplace was made of stone and the logs were held up by fire-dogs. There was not much furniture, but all of it was made by hand and was solid and good. Notice the linen-fold panelling on the chest. There were not many chairs, and the carved chair in the picture was used by the father, as head of the family.

Bedrooms in this house would be simple, but the best beds were large four-posters with curtains on rails, so that when the people were in bed the curtains could be drawn to enclose them completely.





## *An Elizabethan Mansion*

In the long reign of Elizabeth I, England was a peaceful and prosperous land. It became the fashion for a successful man to build a handsome house in the country. Many of these magnificent mansions still stand, to remind us of the splendour of those days.

The Elizabethan mansions were built of stone or brick, or were half-timbered. If they were developed from an earlier mansion they sometimes combined both styles. These mansions were no longer designed to be used as fortresses, they were entirely residences, and as fine as possible. Large oriel windows or bay windows lighted the best rooms, and gave wide views over the gardens and countryside. Chimneys were tall and cleverly built of brick to look decorative.

Walls were panelled and floors were made of wide planks. The main rooms were large with beautifully plastered ceilings. Often there was a long gallery with windows on one side. Here the family could stroll and chat, listen to music or dance. The Elizabethans loved formal gardens with carefully clipped hedges, and a dovecote to supply birds to the kitchen and a pond full of freshwater fish, ready to be caught and cooked.





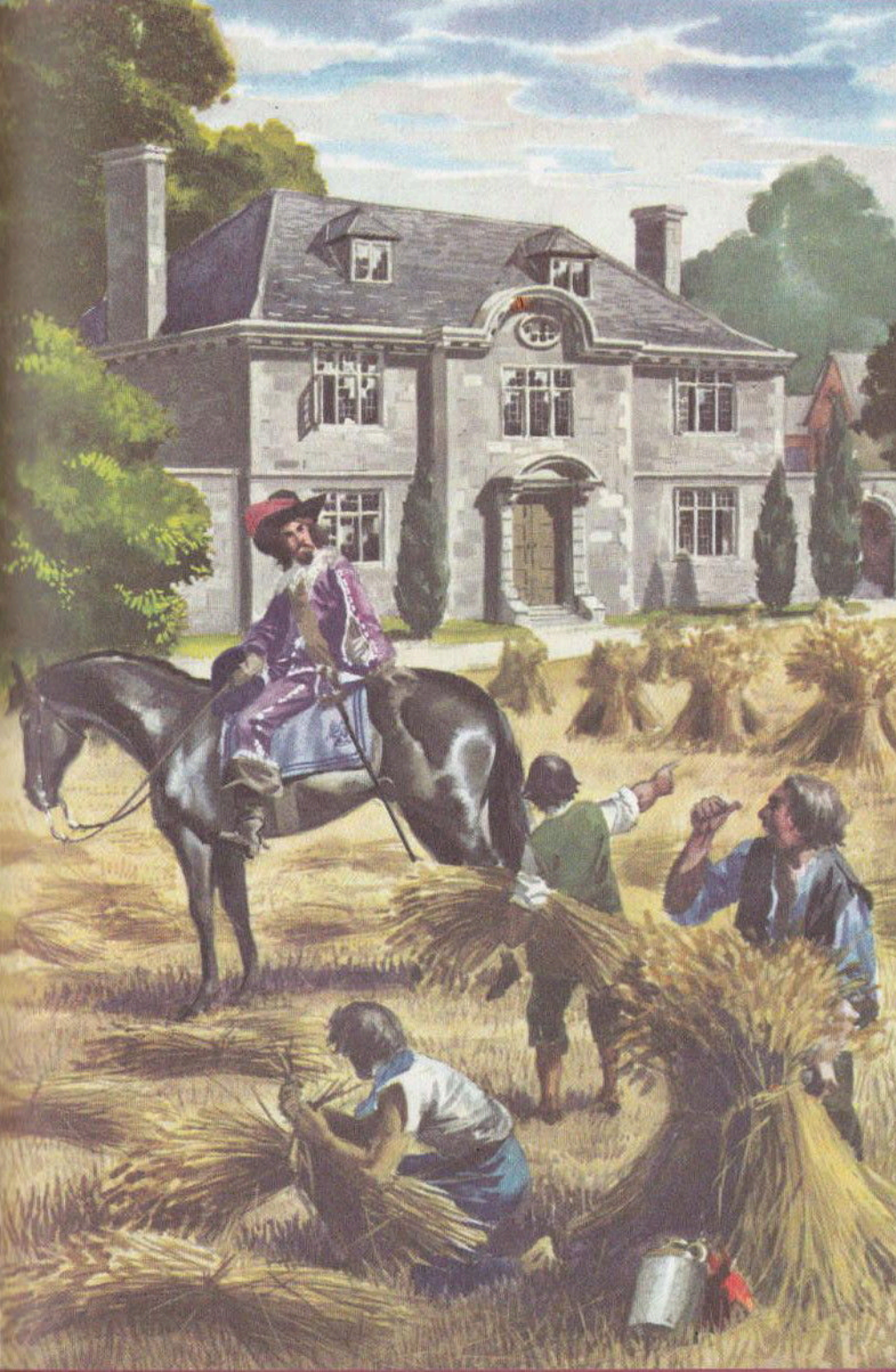
## *The Classical Style of Building*

When the Tudor Queen Elizabeth was succeeded by the Stuart King James I in 1603, many things were changed in England, and among the changes was the style of building. Architects who travelled abroad, especially in Italy, saw designs of houses taken from the buildings of the ancient Greeks and Romans, which we call classical architecture.

The greatest of these architects was Inigo Jones (1573–1652) who designed many beautiful buildings in England, such as the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London, and the Queen's House at Greenwich.

The house in the picture, which was built about 1620, shows how the classical style was followed. The building was simple and graceful in appearance, with the size and positioning of the front door and windows carefully arranged and in proportion to the building as a whole. There were still only small panes of glass, but set in *casement windows*, windows hinged to open outwards. Many elegant and simply-designed farm-houses like this were built in the reigns of James I and Charles I, when there was work for all in the country and farmers were well-to-do.





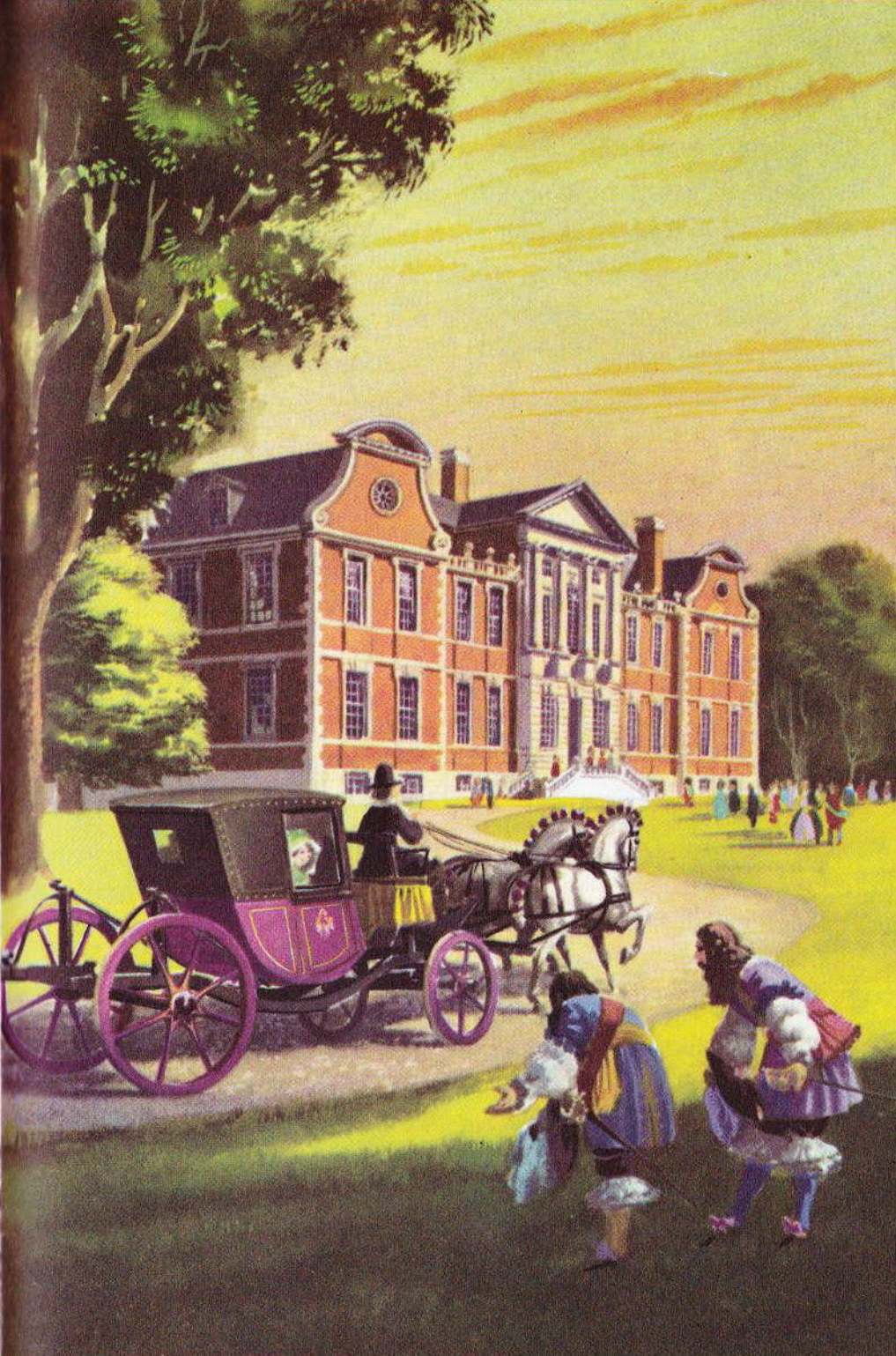
## ***Seventeenth Century Mansion***

The country mansion in the picture, which belongs to about 1650, is in the pure classical style, which pays great attention to the proportion and balance of a building. In this new style the outward appearance of a house became as important as the convenience and comfort inside. Everything had to be designed to achieve the correct and most pleasing proportion.

These seventeenth-century country mansions were usually built of smooth stone, or a combination of brick and stone. The front door was imposing, like the entrance to a Greek temple, with pillars which sometimes went right up to the roof of the house. Often the door was reached by a graceful flight of steps, with a balustrade of carved stone or shapely wrought-iron.

The tall windows were carefully designed to be in proportion to the whole building, with an equal number on either side of the front door. They were sash windows, which opened by sliding up, and which had larger panes of glass than before. They had the additional advantage that when they were open they did not break the lines of the house. Formal gardens provided the setting for these gracious and lovely houses.





## *A Queen Anne House*

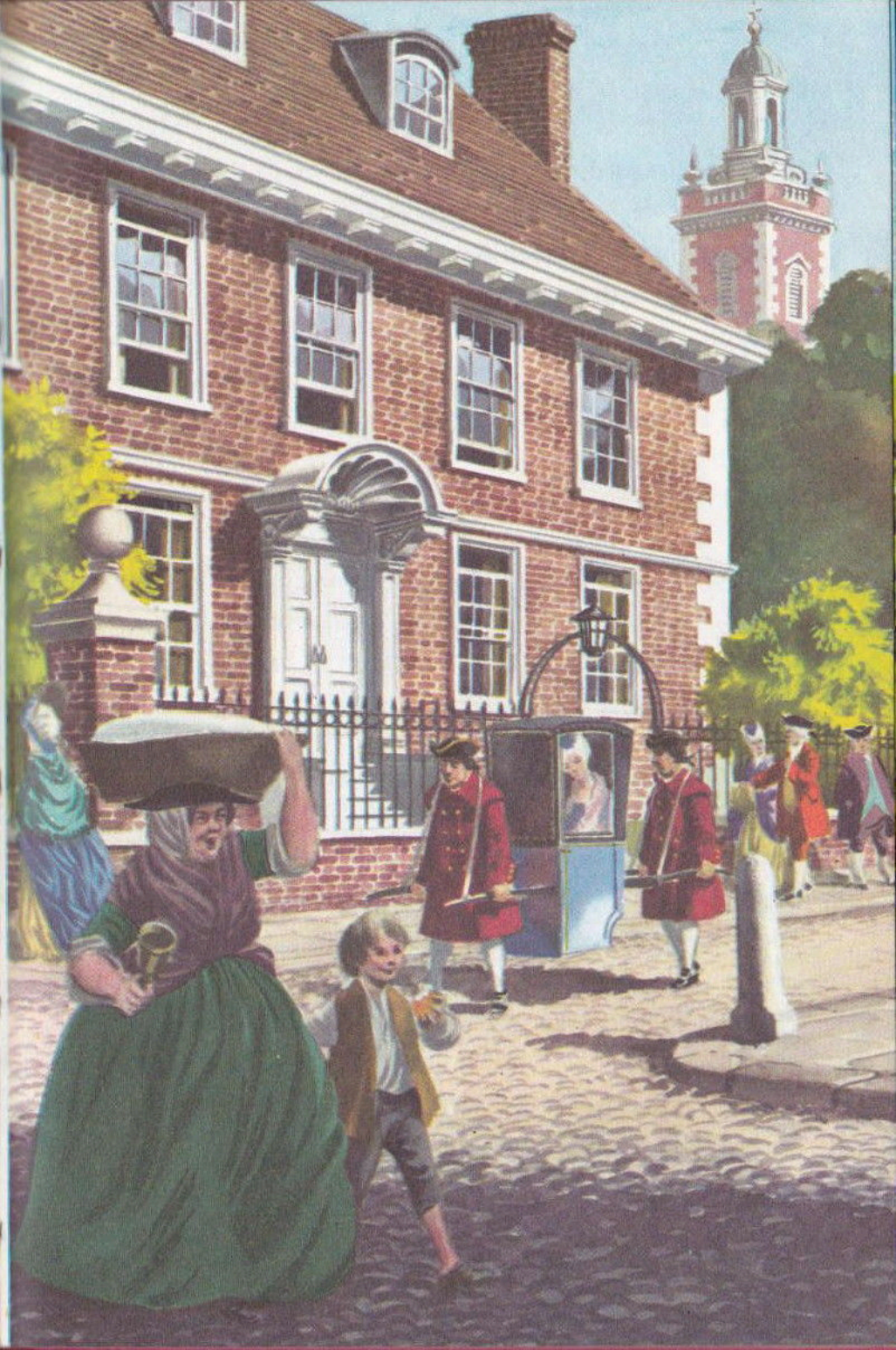
Some of the loveliest houses in England, large or small, were built in the reign of Queen Anne (1702–1714). Red brick had been used in England for a long time, especially during the Tudor period, but now red brick was used with white paint for houses designed with classical restraint. The Queen Anne houses had, and still have, a charm and grace which has never been surpassed.

A number of very distinguished architects were at work, chief among them the great Sir Christopher Wren, who designed the new St. Paul's Cathedral to replace the one destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The picture shows a typical Queen Anne house of about 1710. It is simple in design, with classical proportions and the red brick and white paint give it a pleasing appearance.

The rooms were beautifully proportioned, and the staircase was as elegant as everything else about the house. The furniture of the period was made by skilled craftsmen who worked to the highest standards. They made fine tables, chairs, desks, card-tables and handsome grandfather clocks. Everything, the house and the contents, was in the best taste.





## *The Rich Man's Lodge*

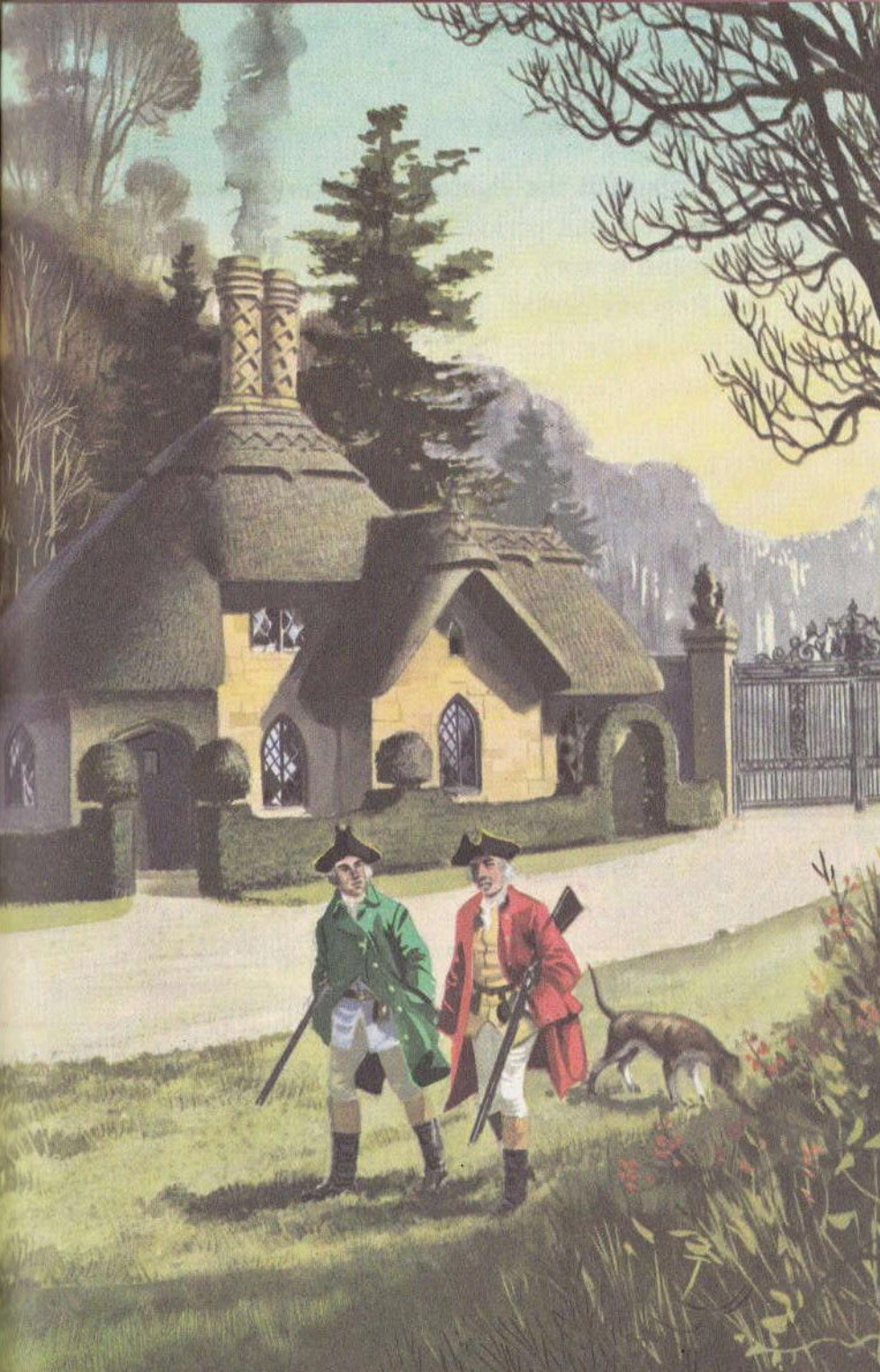
The extraordinary little house shown in the picture is the kind of lodge rich men liked to have built in the country in the eighteenth century. It might be dated 1750. The eighteenth century was a time of great prosperity. People were interested in all sorts of things and above all they were proud of their good taste. Sometimes they liked to relax from the austere and restrained classical building and have fun by building romantic, old-fashioned thatched lodges.

They built them at the gates of the country mansions or in the parks or woods. Romantic and artificial though they were, these lodges still had a charm of their own and amused their owners.

We have seen what splendid houses the rich lived in, but what about the houses of the poor? *Their* homes had but little grace and elegance. In the towns, poor families had one or two rooms in tumble-down houses, and in the country they lived in very simple cottages.

Ordinary cottages had not changed much from the earliest days. There was a ladder instead of stairs, there was no glass in the windows, and animals often shared the one downstairs living room.





## *Georgian Houses*

Throughout the eighteenth century, which we know as the Georgian period, houses were built with classical grace and beauty. The same excellence continued into the Regency period, between 1811 and 1830, so called because at that time the Prince of Wales was Regent for his father, George III, who was ill.

The great pride of the Georgian period was the elegant squares, rows and terraces of fine houses, designed as a whole. We still have some splendid period squares in London, and there are beautiful terraces in many old towns.

These squares and terraces were carefully planned by master architects, and anyone building a house in them had to do it according to a master plan.

The general design was for tall narrow houses, often only one room wide. The front door was usually a few steps up from the pavement, to allow for a semi-basement, in which was the kitchen. Generally there was a balcony at the first floor, and a cornice at the top hid the roof. A row of these elegant houses around a square with a garden in the middle, or in a graceful crescent, reminds us of the good taste and graceful living of people of two centuries ago.





## *Inside a Regency House*

Georgian and Regency houses were elegant inside as well as outside. Rooms were carefully designed to be of the right proportions; they were high and spacious and well lighted by the tall windows. Staircases were beautifully designed, and the fireplaces and decoration of the rooms were in excellent taste. The Adam brothers were famous for their designs of interiors, and especially for their charming and elegant fireplaces, ceilings and doorways

It was the day of the great furniture makers, led by the eighteenth century craftsmen Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton, who set the fashion for beautifully designed and constructed furniture. Georgian and Regency furniture, china, silver and glass is treasured to-day and is very valuable.

Lovely glass chandeliers hung from the ceilings, to glitter at night when the candles were alight. Chinese hand-painted wall-paper was sometimes used.

They were elegant houses for elegant and well-to-do people. They were very comfortable, with plenty of servants to answer the bell, and to run up and down stairs from the kitchen in the basement to the numerous upper rooms.





## *The Victorian Gothic House*

In the eighteenth century, as we have seen, good houses were designed with classical simplicity. In the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901) came a change to a style known as Victorian Gothic. This style imitated many of the details of the medieval churches and manor houses, and tried to apply them to the quite different needs of the nineteenth century. In place of the careful classical balance and restraint, houses were built like the one opposite, with unnecessary towers, gables, angles and ornamentation. The idea was to look rich and grand.

These large and solidly built Victorian Gothic houses were a sign of the times. They were the homes of the people who rapidly became rich in the Industrial Revolution which changed Britain in the Victorian age.

The spread of canals and railways had made it possible to move raw materials to factories in towns, and to distribute the products about the country, and to the ports to be sold overseas. Improvements in machinery and rapidly growing trade, brought more and more factories to towns. The manufacturers grew rich and wanted grand houses built in the suburbs, outside the towns. So the Victorian Gothic houses sprang up in the suburbs of towns all over Britain.





## *A Victorian Parlour*

The picture opposite shows a parlour or drawing room in a mid-Victorian house. Compare it with the simplicity and good taste of the room on page 35. The Victorians lived in a rich and prosperous age and they loved possessions. The room is crowded with chairs, little tables, cabinets and shelves. All available space is filled with artificial flowers, stuffed birds and useless things of all kinds.

The wall-paper is heavily patterned and covered with pictures. Lace curtains cover the windows, with heavy hanging curtains as well, making it all rather dark and stuffy. They also usually found room for a piano, too. But think of the dusting necessary to keep a room like this clean!

The room shown is in a large house, but the small mid-Victorian houses had their parlours similarly packed with possessions. A pot-plant in the window and lace curtains were a mark of respectability. But with all their wealth and possessions the Victorians did not have bathrooms and a hot water supply.

One important change can be seen, the use of gas for lighting. Often oil lamps were used as well for reading or needlework.





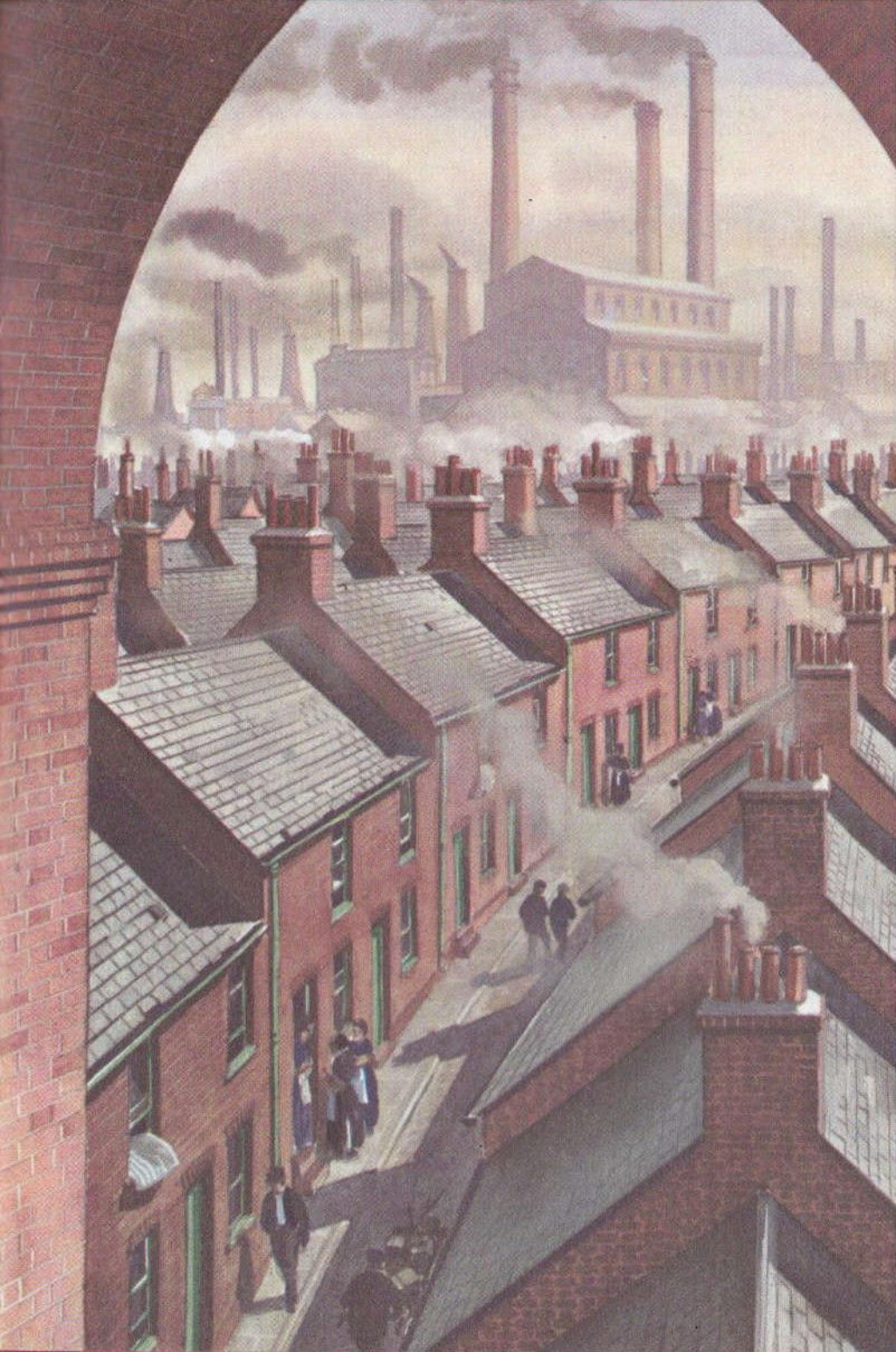
## *Slum Dwellings*

We have seen how the Industrial Revolution made some people rich, so that they could build themselves lavish, but usually ugly houses. The rapid growth of factories meant that an enormous number of houses had to be built for the people working in the new towns.

The houses for the people who flocked to the towns for jobs were built with two main considerations: to be as cheap as possible, and to get as many people as possible into the smallest space. No thought was given to the outside appearance of the houses, nor to the internal comfort and convenience. The thousands of houses built in the mid-Victorian age have become slums, and are being pulled down as fast as possible.

The people condemned to live in the new workers' houses had no choice. They went to the town to get the jobs, and they had to have homes. Often rows of these ugly houses were built back to back, with no space outside except a courtyard shared by as many as eight families. In this courtyard were the wash-houses and lavatories. The usual arrangement was one kitchen-living room and one large and one small bedroom. They were mean, small and ugly houses, a disgrace to the times.





## *The Law and Houses*

The towns which began to grow when railways and factories made Britain an industrial nation continued to get bigger. Always more and more houses were needed, streets and streets of them. They had to be cheap to build, and economical in the use of space.

A famous Act of Parliament, passed in 1875, stopped the greedy building of large numbers of small houses crammed together. Local authorities were given the power to insist that every house built had to fulfil certain conditions. Among other regulations there had to be a certain number of rooms, walls had to be of a certain thickness, every house had to have a sink in the kitchen with a tap, a copper for boiling water to wash clothes, and its own lavatory.

The Act of 1875 brought about a wonderful improvement in the comfort and convenience of ordinary houses. In the suburbs around our towns, street after street of a new kind of house was built, like those in the picture.

Every house had its own small garden, a living room, a sitting room, a kitchen and out-houses. There were two good-sized bedrooms and one small one, and proper arrangements for sewage. The houses were efficient and comfortable but, unfortunately, they were not very beautiful to look at.





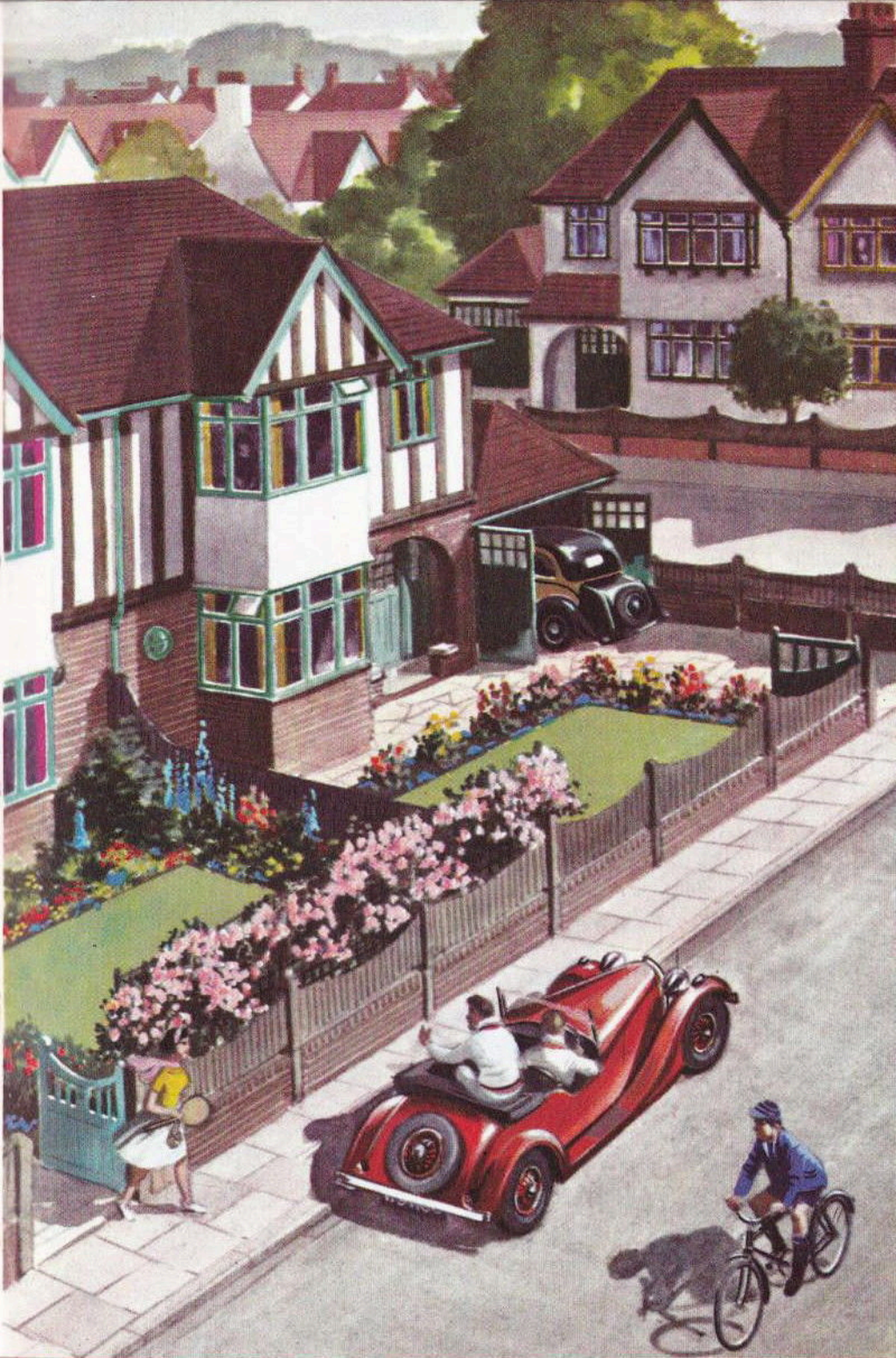
## *The Twentieth Century House*

The building of homes in Britain has improved immensely since 1900, owing to important inventions. The installation of a hot water system, usually from a boiler behind the kitchen range or the living-room fire, led to bathrooms which were a rare luxury before 1900. First gas and then electricity became normal services. Gas or electric stoves made cooking easier, light was provided in every room and electric power points could be used for additional lighting, for an electric cleaner, or a refrigerator.

It became the custom to build semi-detached houses, which are houses built in pairs. These are cheaper to build than single houses and they give more privacy than a house in a long row. The builder usually builds a number of pairs of houses, all of the same or similar design, on estates with wide roads.

The houses have good gardens at the back, and small ones in front as well, and are withdrawn from the road which makes them quieter. The picture shows one kind of these new private houses, which might have been built about 1930. More care has been taken over their design, both from the point of view of the convenience of the people living in them, and for their appearance.





## ***Council Houses***

One important step towards solving the problem of providing homes for the ever-increasing population of our towns is for the town council to build housing estates. The council buys a piece of suitable land, and an architect designs as many small houses as he can fit comfortably into the area. The council then builds the houses, assisted by a grant from the government.

Council estates are valuable for providing new homes for families living in old-fashioned houses which have been condemned, or in slums which must be pulled down.

Council estates try to achieve a pleasing general design, and to provide good, small houses with all the modern advantages. Usually there are two rooms downstairs, a kitchen and living room, and upstairs three bedrooms and a bathroom. Modern building materials and careful planning make comfortable and economical homes. The picture shows a good, modern council estate. The houses have light and fresh air, and the children have somewhere to play in safety, away from the road.





## ***Building with Reinforced Concrete***

New materials have made possible a new kind of building. Steel girders and reinforced concrete, plywood, plastic and aluminium can now be used as well as the familiar stone, brick and timber.

Steel girders form the framework of a block of flats like that shown opposite, and the walls, floors, windows and doors are built on to this frame. As the steel framework carries all the weight (and the external and internal walls do not carry any) all rooms, windows and doors can be placed in the best positions for convenience, sunlight and fresh air. And there is no limit to the size of a window. Scores of families can have their homes in a tall block of flats on a ground space which would otherwise house only a few. This means that more ground can be left free for lawns, flowers, trees and shrubs, for tennis courts and playgrounds.

Blocks of flats like these have their own electric lifts, and often their own public dining and recreation rooms. When carefully planned and sited, they can be as beautiful in their way as were the best homes of the past, and, with their extra space, sunlight and fresh air, they can be even more convenient and pleasant to live in.





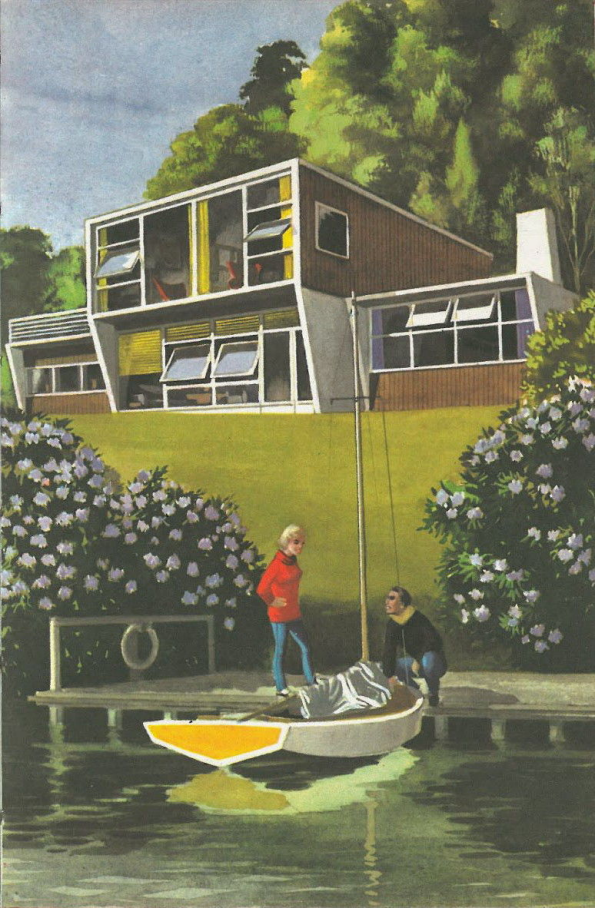
## *Houses and Homes*

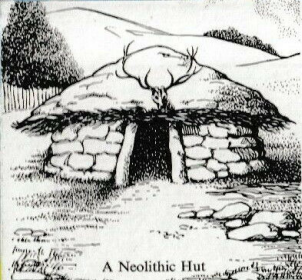
Britain is a treasury of houses. We have the remains of Roman villas which were homes nearly two thousand years ago, and castles built by the Normans. Medieval houses still stand, and we can see Elizabethan mansions, houses and barns almost as good as new. In town and country we can find houses of every age: seventeenth century, Queen Anne, Georgian, Regency and, of course, Victorian.

Architects are constantly trying to design, with modern materials and building methods, houses as perfect, in the modern way, as the houses of the great periods of British architecture. The picture shows a modern country house in which good design and construction are matched with the requirements of life to-day.

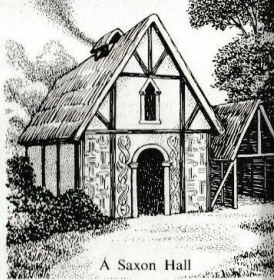
As our towns become more crowded, land on which to build becomes more and more scarce and valuable. But with careful planning and modern methods and materials, the maximum use can now be made of even the most limited space. More air, light, convenience and comfort can be brought into people's lives, and no longer is it necessary to have many rooms and many servants in order to live comfortably.



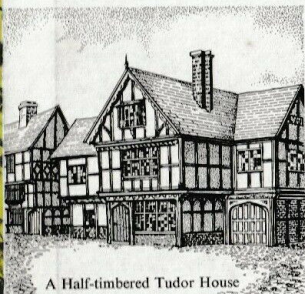




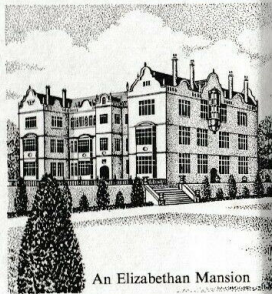
A Neolithic Hut



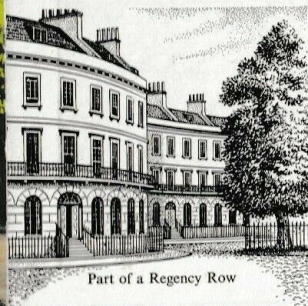
A Saxon Hall



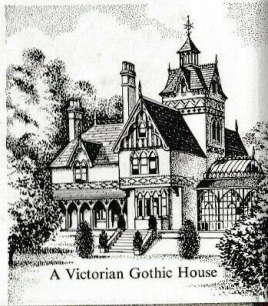
A Half-timbered Tudor House



An Elizabethan Mansion

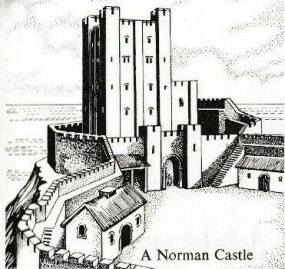


Part of a Regency Row

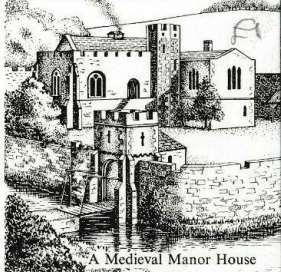


A Victorian Gothic House

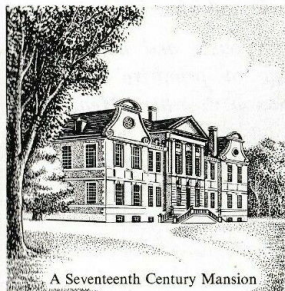




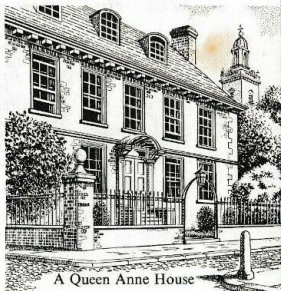
A Norman Castle



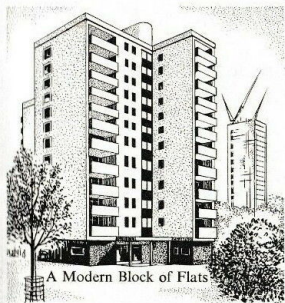
A Medieval Manor House



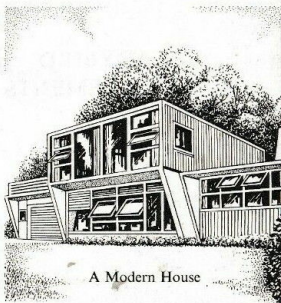
A Seventeenth Century Mansion



A Queen Anne House



A Modern Block of Flats



A Modern House





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